



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

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Second District

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Third District

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Fifth District

August 16, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

## WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

### Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Reauthorization

Before leaving for its August recess, the House adopted, 381 to 40, the conference report on H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA), which authorizes funding for Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") water resource projects, including those of importance to the County's Departments of Public Works and Beaches and Harbors.

The conference report includes an authorization for \$20,000,000 in funding for the planning, design, and construction of water-related infrastructure for Santa Monica Bay and the coastal zone of Los Angeles County. It also authorizes the following Corps studies requested by the Department of Beaches and Harbors: Ballona Creek Middle Jetty Beautification; Ballona Lagoon Tide Gates; Dockweiler Bluffs Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration; and Nicholas Canyon Bluffs Shoreline Protection. All of these projects were included in WRDA reauthorization legislation that was not enacted in the previous Congressional Session.

H.R. 1495 also authorizes \$25 million for the Corps to conduct a study, in coordination with the City of Los Angeles, to revitalize the Los Angeles River. The study would

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explore opportunities for environmental ecosystem restoration, flood control, and recreation in a manner that is consistent with the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. The authorization level in the conference report is higher than the levels in the previous Senate and House-passed WRDA bills.

The Senate is expected to act on the conference report in September after it returns from its August recess. The President has threatened to veto the bill because the conference report authorizes a total of \$21 billion in spending, which is far more than the \$15 billion authorized in the previous House bill and \$14 billion in the Senate bill. However, the bill has strong bipartisan support, and key lawmakers from both parties have indicated that they would support a veto override. The Senate passed its original WRDA bill by a vote of 91 to 4 on May 16, 2007.

### **Pursuit of County Position**

**Retention of Resident Slots for Martin Luther King, Jr. - Harbor Hospital:** Under current Federal law, the decision of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to terminate the Medicare provider agreement with the Martin Luther King, Jr. - Harbor Hospital (MLK-Harbor) will mean the loss of the hospital's up to 250 resident slots that are eligible for direct Medicare graduate medical education (GME) payments. Moreover, these resident slots cannot be transferred to another operator or entity.

Based on your Board order of July 17, 2007, directing the Chief Executive Office to actively pursue legislative action, as required, to preserve the resident slots at a reopened MLK-Harbor Hospital, **our Washington, D.C. advocates are working with the County's Congressional delegation to retain the hospital's resident slots, whether under the same or different ownership, in legislation that can be enacted this year.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:SRH:GK  
MAL:MT:acn

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist